

home we had to stand up for our interests, our ideals, and four friends around the world. Because of the alliances we've built and the work that our people have been able to do here, we near the end of this great century at a remarkable pinnacle of peace, with prosperity and declining social problems at home, and for the very first time ever a majority of the world's people living under governments of their own choosing.

Since World War II, no alliance for freedom has been more important or enduring than NATO. And as we look ahead to the next 50 years, we have to imagine what the world will be like and what it is we expect to do and, in particular in this case, what about NATO. Today we welcome Hungary, Poland, the Czech Republic, finally erasing the boundary line the Cold War artificially imposed on the continent of Europe, strengthening an alliance that now, clearly, is better preserved to keep the peace and preserve our security into the 21st century.

For the 16 of us already in NATO, enlarging our alliance will create three new allies ready to contribute troops and technology and ingenuity to protecting our territory, defending our security and pursuing our vital interest. The 60 million people who live in Hungary, Poland, and the Czech Republic, they now know that what they build in peace they will be able to keep in security. And America now knows that we have new allies to help us meet the new security challenges of the 21st century—something that our partnership in Bosnia so clearly demonstrates.

I would say also to the nations who have joined with us in the Partnership for Peace, and others who have considered doing so, and those who hope still someday to become NATO members, we are in the process of adapting this organization to the security challenges of the 21st century, and those who are with us in the Partnership for Peace, those who have been part of our endeavors in Bosnia, we appreciate you as well. We respect your aspirations for security; we share your devotion to your freedom; and we hope this is a day which you can celebrate as well.

We come to this day, thanks to many acts of courage—courage that toppled the Berlin Wall, ended the Cold War; the sacrifices by those who raised freedom's banner in Budapest in 1956, in Prague in 1968, in Gdansk in 1980; people like Lech Walesa, Vaclav Havel, Arpad Goncz, so many others. The selfless investment of blood and treasure the American people made in freedom in the 20th century is also something we ought to stop and remember here today. There are so many people whose families gave so much in two world wars and the Cold War who should feel a personal sense of satisfaction and triumph because of this day. And I hope they do.

As we look ahead to the 21st century, again I say, we have to see what we're doing in NATO in the larger context of preparing for a different era. Our goal is to help to build a Europe that is undivided, free, democratic, at peace, and secure; a Europe in which Russia, Ukraine, and other states of the former Soviet Union join with us to make common cause; a dynamic new Europe with partnership for commerce and cooperation.

Therefore, we have supported the expansion of NATO and the Partnership for Peace. We have also supported all efforts at European integration and the expansion of European institutions to welcome new democracies. And we will continue to do so.

We want to imagine a future in which our children will be much less likely to cross the Atlantic to fight and die in a war, but much more likely to find partners in security, in cultural and commercial and educational endeavors. The expansion of NATO and the Partnership for Peace make the positive outcome much more probable.

This is a day for celebration, but also a day for looking ahead. Our work to adapt all our institutions to the challenges of the new century is far from done. On Monday I had the opportunity to go to Geneva to lay out a seven-point plan for the changes I believe the world trading system must embrace in order to fully and faithfully serve free people in the 21st century.

And just very briefly before I close, let me mention the things that I believe we still have to do with NATO. We have to build closer ties with the Partnership for Peace members. We have to reinforce the practical cooperation between NATO and Russia, and NATO and Ukraine. We have to see through our efforts to secure a lasting peace in the Balkans, and we cannot walk away until the job is done. (Applause.) We must achieve deeper reductions in our nuclear forces and lower the limits on conventional arms across the European continent.

Yes, we have more work to do, but for today, we remind the people of Europe that in the efforts that lie ahead, they can continue to count on the United States. And we remind the world that tomorrow, as yesterday, America will defend its values, protect its interests, and stand by its friends. So that years from now another generation may gather in this place and bask in the warm glow of liberty's light, because in our time we fulfilled America's eternal mission: to deepen the meaning of freedom, to widen the circle of opportunity, to strengthen the bonds of our union among ourselves and with others who believe in the primary importance of liberty and human dignity.

Thank you and God bless you all.

IN HONOR OF STAND FOR CHILDREN

HON. MARTIN FROST

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 22, 1998

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize June 1, 1998, as Stand for Children Day. On this day, Americans of all backgrounds will come together in their communities to take a Stand for Children, and to renew their community's commitment to improving the quality of our children's lives.

On Stand for Children Day, families, citizens, members of religious congregations, schools, community based organizations, businesses, and political and cultural groups will join together as a national community to recognize and address our children's unmet needs.

Caring for our children must be our families', communities', and nation's first priority. This commitment must begin at the local level, and be carried to Washington by the Members of this body.

My fellow colleagues, please join me in recognizing June 1, 1998, as Stand for Children Day.

IN PRAISE OF THE SANTA BARBARA BOTANICAL GARDENS

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 22, 1998

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the Santa Barbara Botanical Garden. In par-

ticular I would like to praise the work of six extraordinary third grade teachers from my district: Ms. Kelly McCarthy, Ms. Kathy Hines-Knight, Mrs. Christine Benedict, Ms. Connie Warner, Mr. Mark Stucky, and Ms. Janice Ulloa-Brown.

The Santa Barbara Botanical Garden seeks to promote scientific literacy and appreciation of the natural world through living displays, classes, interpretive materials, and discovery-based activities. Also, the Santa Barbara Botanical Garden provides relevant materials and educational programs, as well as exploration-based outdoor educational experiences, in order to augment the science curriculum of local teachers.

Kelly McCarthy, Kathy Hines-Knight, Christine Benedict, Connie Warner, Mark Stucky, and Janice Ulloa-Brown, third grade teachers at Cleveland School in Santa Barbara, epitomize the dedicated, intellectually curious elementary school teacher and make science enjoyable for all students, with considerable attention given to helping children with different learning styles and languages of origin grasp the concepts and develop enthusiasm for science through hands-on learning experiences.

The Santa Barbara Botanical Garden has named these third grade teachers to the Association of Science and Technologies's Center's Honor Roll of Teachers for 1998.

I commend these teachers for their exemplary role in teaching the plant sciences and successfully providing an atmosphere which fosters a love of learning and an appreciation of nature in their students.

PEACE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN NORTHERN IRELAND

HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 22, 1998

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island. Mr. Speaker, today marks a truly significant milestone in the long and difficult quest for peace, reconciliation and the economic reconstruction of Northern Ireland.

On this day, men and women throughout the island of Ireland, both in the North and the Republic, will be given the opportunity for the first time in history to vote on a plan designed to end sectarian strife, armed aggression and political turmoil, and move the island of Ireland into a new peaceful and prosperous era for all people there. I know they will seize that opportunity.

Recently, I visited the Republic of Ireland and the North with a group of my constituents, including business, labor and community leaders, state legislators and my good friend Paul S. Quinn, a native Rhode Islander and prominent Washington attorney. I came away greatly encouraged by that visit, but persuaded that while we, in the United States with President Clinton's dynamic leadership, have done much to move the peace process ahead, much remains to be done, particularly in economic terms if the peace process is to succeed. I am therefore pleased to introduce into the RECORD at this time an excellent article by Mr. Quinn from today's Journal of Commerce that lays out a blueprint showing how that economic progress can be achieved. I urge all of